NISHAD) : (a) The Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a comprehensive scheme on Joint Forest Management to the office of the Prime Minister on 31.10.1995 with a request to accord clearance and allot the required budget under Employment Generation Schemes of the Government of India. The total financial outlay of Rs. 1965 crores has been proposed for covering an area of 743000 hectare under joint forest management over a period of six years from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Joint Forest Management schemes framed within the guidelines issued by the Government of India on 1st June, 1990 do not require clearance by the Government of India. The State Government has already been advised to implement the scheme for raising of fuelwood, fodder and forest based fruit trees and non-timber forest produce within the available budget resources under various plantation schemes including World Bank aided project.

Rajiv Gandhi Murder Probe

4016. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the probe of Rajiv Gandhi murder case; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the probe?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The material is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Quarrying of Rocks

4017. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale and unrestricted quarrying of rocks as well as removal of the sand and solid throughout the country including Krishna river side thereby threatening the ecology and environment, and

(b) if so, the remedial measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Being minor minerals, quarrying of rocks, ordinary sand and soil are controlled and regulated by State Governments for mineral concession purposes. Further, to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of unrestricted quarrying of rocks, sand and soli by river sides in the Coastal Regulation Zone, a Gazette Notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued on 19th February, 1991 which interalia regulates such activities in the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters. Also, wherever quarries and extraction of sand from forest lands are involved, provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines are applicable.

Foreign Visits by Government Officials and Ministers

4018. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plans to effect economies in expenditure on foreign of the government officials and ministers, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Travels abroad are expensive and also cause disruption in work. Instructions have been issued that foreign visits must be kept to the barest minimum. It has also been provided that when Parliament is in session, foreign travels should, as far as possible, be avoided.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion Work on Lucknow-Sitapur-Bareilly Section

4019. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not commencing the gauge conversion work, so far on Lucknow-Sitapur-Melani-Baraelly section meter gauge rail line despite the fact that survey in this regard was made many years back, and

(b) the time expected to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) This is not yet a sanctioned project. Moreover, no survey for conversion of this line was done in the past. However, conversion of this line has been included in the first phase of the Action Plan and is planed to be taken up in the 9th Plan Period.

Construction of New Bridge

4020. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased o state :

(a) whether all old cemented poles are lying useless after the construction of a new bridge for the passage of the rail line on the small river Gandak between Nonapar, Bhatpar and Rani Stations in the Gorakhpur Division;

(b) if so, whether he Government are contemplating to hand over such old poles to the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to construct a bridge on the said poles in the public interest for passage thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir,.